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LOOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1970

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOOE

To the Chairman and Members of the

Looe Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the year under review the population of No.7 Health Area as estimated on 30th June, 1970 was 53,400. This was an increase of 640 over the total for the corresponding date in 1969. By far the largest part of this growth occurred in the Borough of Saltash where the increase was 480. Smaller increases took place in St. Germans Rural District, Torpoint Urban District and the Borough of Liskeard. In the Liskeard Rural District and Looe Urban District there were small reductions in population.

Live births fell from last years total of 810 to 769, giving a corrected birth rate of 17.7 per 1,000 of population, some 1.7 per 1,000 above the rate for England and Wales. The rates for still births and for deaths of infants under one year of age were marginally lower than the national rates. Illegitimate births totalled 45 and represented 5.9% of all births, the lowest rate recorded since 1966. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium did not cause any deaths of mothers during 1970.

Deaths totalled 768, an increase of 34 over the figure for 1969. The corrected death rate of 12.0 per 1,000 of population was slightly above the national rate of 11.7. Heart disease which caused 40% of all deaths was again the most prevalent cause of death. Various types of cancer caused 20% of all deaths, and strokes were responsible for a further 14%. Of the defined forms of cancer causing death, those affecting the intestine were most numerous, closely followed by cancers of the windpipe and lung, and those involving the stomach. Since in the female the breast is a much more highly developed gland than it is in the male, cancers of this organ are for all practical purposes confined to the female half of the population. From this point of view the impact of breast cancer as a cause of death on the female section of the population is heavier than appears from a cursory glance at the figures of death attributed to this cause. In 1970 there were 16 deaths from this cause, all of them females. Looked at in terms of a rate per 1,000 of the vulnerable female population it advances breast cancer to the unenviable position of being almost as lethal for women as cancer of the lung is for men.

The incidence of notifiable disease was quite low during 1970, when a total of 80 cases was notified. The principal factor contributing to this reduction is the fall in the prevalence of measles which has resulted from the development some few years ago of a new vaccine against this disease. Under the present schedule of protective immunisations this vaccine is now given to children during the second year of life and if parents are co-operative in having their children protected we can fairly confidently hope that measles will largely disappear in the same way that diphtheria, whooping-cough, poliomyelitis, and tuberculosis have done. German measles is normally the cause of a trivial illness, so mild in its effect that it is often not recognised as such. For these reasons it has not been included in the list of infectious diseases which must be notified.





There is however one serious effect of this disease. If a woman who is pregnant, and in particular in the first three months of her pregnancy, contracts German measles there is a distinct risk that she will give birth to a child suffering from a variety of physical and mental defects. A vaccine which gives immunity against the German measles virus was made available during 1970, and it was decided that it would be used mainly to give immunity to young females at the beginning of their reproductive life. Vaccination was offered to girls in their 14th year, and by the end of 1970 a total of 309 girls in the Health Area had received this form of protection.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1970 was 8. The incidence was equally divided between males and females, and the total of cases notified was the lowest recorded since I started to accept notifications in 1948. One death of an elderly male aged over 75 years was attributed to the late effects of tuberculosis. Of the 8 new cases notified 5 were persons aged 45 years or more, and of these 4 were aged 65 years and over. This fits in with the pattern of tuberculous infection which has prevailed for some years in which the main impact of this infection falls on persons in middle age and old age. Up to twenty years ago tuberculosis posed a serious, and frequently a lethal threat to young adults, adolescents and children. Today cases are seldom seen amongst these age groups. Much of the credit for this must go to an improvement in general standards of living, and to the protective effects of B.C.G. vaccine against tuberculosis which since 1954 has been given to children in secondary schools. During 1970 the number of children in the Health Area who were given B.C.G. vaccination was 585.

In the general preface to my Annual Report for 1969 I referred at some length to the increasing burden of pollution which human beings are inflicting on the environment they share with the variety of biological systems which co-exist with them on the earth. From the welter of discussion, argument, protest, precept and prophecy surrounding this subject one fact emerges with ever increasing clarity. It is that man is the real and ultimate source of practically all pollution arising from his power to reproduce at such a rate that it is increasingly beyond the scope of the natural regulators to hold down growth of population. Since to modern man the idea of calling in such regulators as disease, famine or warfare to control and curb population growth is an unacceptable concept, then logically he must seriously dedicate himself to the alternative by promoting, and supporting in all possible ways policies of population control. Because of limited living space, and the need to bring in large quantities of food and raw materials to sustain modern living standards, the problem of over population is nowhere more urgent than in England and Wales, and there is already clear evidence that in certain parts of the country sheer weight of numbers has eroded the quality of life in those localities. This problem if not tackled resolutely and energetically now, may in the not very distant future call for harsh and unpopular measures which will almost certainly impinge on the liberty of the individual.

I would not wish to close this general preface without putting on record my gratitude to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils I serve for the support and understanding they have given me during 1970.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX

Medical Officer of Health.



LOOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH, HIGHWAYS & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor G.E.Nancollas

Chairman

Councillor W.F.L.Perry

Vice-Chairman

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

P.J.Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H. - Medical Officer of Health  
Health Area Office,  
Westbourne House,  
LISKEARD,  
Cornwall,  
PL14 6BX.

Liskeard 43373

J.E.Harvey, M.A.P.H.I. - Public Health Inspector  
The Guildhall,  
Fore Street,  
LOOE,  
Cornwall,  
PL13 1AA.

Looe 2255/6





## URBAN DISTRICT OF LOOE

Area of Urban District:	1,691	acres
Population:	4,030	
Number of Inhabitated Houses:	1,884	
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.71)	£212,243	
Product of Penny Rate (as at 1.4.71)	£2,080	

### Vital Statistics for 1970

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:	23	20	43
	<u>Looe U.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population:	14.9	17.7	16.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births:	1	-	1
	<u>Looe U.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births:	23.0	12.9	13.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths:	38	34	72
	<u>Looe U.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Death rate per 1,000 of population:	11.1	12.0	11.7
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under one year of age:	1	-	1
	<u>Looe U.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:	23.0	16.9	18.0

#### Principal Causes of Death at All Ages:

Heart disease	23
Cancer (all sites)	17
Stroke	8
Circulatory disease	6

As is generally the case in the Looe Urban District there was an excess of deaths over births which during 1970 was larger than usual. Of the 43 live births 5 were illegitimate giving a percentage of 11.6. The corresponding percentage for the Health Area was 5.9 and for the country as a whole 8.0%. Of the defined forms of cancer that affecting the lung and bronchus was most prevalent and caused 6 deaths. Of those who died during the year 43% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

#### Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis).

The incidence of this group of diseases was light during 1970. There were 8 cases of scarlet fever and 3 cases of measles. None of the more serious forms of notifiable disease was notified.

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### Tuberculosis:

No new case of this disease was notified during 1970, and there were no deaths attributable to this disease.

At the end of the year there were 6 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and 3 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Urban District.

### Water Supply:

An adequate supply of wholesome water was provided from the mains of the East Cornwall Water Board throughout the year.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The contract for a very comprehensive system of sewerage and sewage disposal was signed and work on this scheme was scheduled to commence in the early part of 1971. When this scheme is completed almost all premises in the built-up part of the Urban District will be served, and further housing development which had been halted for lack of adequate means of sewage disposal will now go ahead.

### Food:

In the 94 shops and catering establishments where food is handled reasonably good standards of food hygiene were achieved and maintained. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

### Refuse Disposal:

Arrangements at the Council's small incinerator and refuse tip in West Looe continued to be unsatisfactory and the practice of burning refuse on the tip gave rise to some justifiable complaints of nuisance from smoke resulting from this practice. Following some such complaints and on strong recommendation from the Public Health Inspector and myself the Council entered into negotiations with the Liskeard R.D. Council for the use of that Council's tipping site in a relatively remote part of the Liskeard Rural District.

### Factories Act, 1961:

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced during 1970.

### National Assistance Act, 1948:

In my report for 1969 I made reference to the probability of action being found necessary under this Act in respect of an elderly female living alone in West Looe. As a result of representations and complaints from various sources concerning her way of life and insanitary behaviour in public places I was obliged to recommend that action under Section 47 of this Act be taken to secure her removal to and detention in a place where she could be given necessary care and attention. After hearing evidence from me the Justices saw fit to make the Order required and she was removed to one of the County Council's Old Persons Homes where she remained under extensions of the Order which are sought by me every three months.

### Report of Public Health Inspector:

This report by Mr. J.E. Harvey follows. I should like to thank Mr. Harvey for the assistance he has given me at all times during 1970.





LOOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of Mr. J.E.HARVEY

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

The embargo on building was lifted by the Planning Authority on the signing of the Sewage Contract. Whilst the Council did not build any new houses, three houses were converted into flats. A limited number of dwellings were provided by developers, and a number of premises were converted into holiday flats. Two medium sized hotels were converted into eighteen such flats for occupation in the summer season only.

A survey was carried out of pre-war Council houses with a view to improve the standard by way of Government Grant.

The Council paid £550 in Standard Grants and £2,654 in Discretionary Grants under the Housing Act 1969.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council signed the Contract for the Sewage Disposal scheme, the tender accepted was £749,000. The Council also resolved to have a scheme prepared for the East Cliff and Plaidy Areas. The Plaidy area is at present sewered by individual septic tanks, and the East Cliff area discharges into the sea via a large settlement tank. When the scheme is completed only a few isolated buildings will not be connected.

The routine maintenance of sewers cost the Council £395 during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1,423 enquiries were dealt with during the year, 5 notices were served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936. It was not found necessary to apply to the Courts for a Nuisance Order.

97 applications were submitted for Building Regulations approval. 482 inspections were carried out under the Regulations.





PUBLIC HEALTH (continued)

Holiday accommodation again proved a problem. A number of complaints were received regarding the cleanliness of flats, etc., and also about the equipment provided. Whilst no legal action could be taken every complaint was investigated and the owners contacted. Persistent offenders were to be reported to the Council with a view to them being not allowed to advertise in the "Holiday Guide".

Both the Holiday Village at Millendreath and the Caravan Camp at Tencreek were inspected regularly and at all times found to be most satisfactory.

RODENT & PEST CONTROL

A total of 360 inspections and treatments were carried out. In no case was there found to be a major infestation, and the results from treatments were found to be highly satisfactory. In all cases Warfarin was the only poison used.

The town's sewers were test baited and only those in the river area found to be infested. These sewers were baited twice during the year with good results.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Premises newly registered during the year:	4
Total number of registered premises at end of year:	187
Number of inspections of registered premises during year:	150
Persons employed in registered premises at end of year:-	
Offices	65
Retail Shops	310
Wholesale Shops	29
Catering Establishments	301
Fuel Depots	26
	<hr/>
	731
	<hr/>
Total Males	280
Total Females	451



### REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

The Council's means of disposal is by partial incineration. This method proved most unsatisfactory, mainly because the size of the furnace is such that during the summer months only about a third can be treated by the plant. The remaining two thirds has to be burnt on the tip, this giving rise to a smoke nuisance. It was also found that it encourages flies and rodents.

The Council resolved to approach the Liskeard Rural District Council and Liskeard Borough Council with a view to sharing their controlled tip at Cannon Bridge. This is the most economical way out of the very unsatisfactory position we are in.

The Council maintained a once weekly collection for domestic premises and a twice weekly collection, during the summer months, for business premises. Trade refuse collections were carried out daily on certain premises for which a charge was made.

The cost of collection and disposal amounted to approximately £7,250.

### FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955

There were 94 Food Shops and Catering Establishments in the district. 284 inspections were carried out to these premises and it was found that generally speaking premises are well run, but problems arise during the busy season when so much casual and unskilled labour is employed. It was impressed on the Employers that such labour must be informed of the requirements under the Food Hygiene Regulations and that a strict check be kept on the staff at all times.

It was not found necessary to take legal action against any person during the year, any problems being dealt with informally with the desired results.

J.E.HARVEY

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR.





APPENDIX 1.PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1970

DISEASE	ST.						HEALTH
	GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	AREA NO. 7.
Heart disease	92	84	39	25	46	23	309
Cancer (all sites)	41	43	22	18	14	17	155
Stroke	30	22	9	13	26	8	108
Respiratory disease	23	19	17	2	8	4	73
Circulatory disease	14	4	3	-	3	6	30
Digestive disease	5	3	2	1	1	1	13
Accidents	3	5	1	-	-	4	13
Genito-urinary disease	7	2	1	1	-	1	12

APPENDIX 2.TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1970

TYPE OF DISEASE	ST.						HEALTH
	GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	AREA NO. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease	75	72	31	18	42	15	253
Hypertensive disease	4	2	-	1	1	-	8
Chronic rheumatic heart disease.	3	1	-	-	1	1	6
Other heart disease	10	9	8	6	2	7	42
Cancer of intestine	9	4	3	4	2	1	23
Cancer of Lung/bronchus	4	7	1	3	1	6	22
Cancer of stomach	4	3	5	3	2	2	19
Cancer of breast	2	4	6	3	-	1	16
Cancer of uterus	2	3	2	3	1	1	12
Other cancers	20	22	5	2	8	6	63

APPENDIX 3.DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1970

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
ST. GERMANS R.D.	5	-	6	46	70	110	237
LISKEARD R.D.	3	1	5	47	50	86	192
SALTASH M.B.	3	-	2	21	29	48	103
TORPOINT U.D.	-	-	2	13	19	28	62
LISKEARD M.B.	2	-	1	14	21	64	102
LOOE U.D.	1	-	2	14	24	31	72
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	14	1	18	155	213	367	768



APPENDIX 4.TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES IN NO. 7 HEALTH AREA - 1970

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	1
25 - 44 years	1	1	2
45 - 64 years	-	1	1
65 years and over	3	1	4
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New case rate per 1,000 of population.	0.075	0.075	0.150

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1970

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMAN'S R.D.	0.13	1.44	-
LISKEARD R.D.	0.07	1.75	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.32	2.48	-
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.44	0.16
LISKEARD M.B.	-	3.67	-
LOOE U.D.	-	2.23	-
HEALTH AREA NO.7	0.15	1.92	0.02
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.13	2.31	0.04

APPENDIX 5.CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUSDEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1970.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
45 - 54 years	1	-	1
55 - 64 years	3	-	3
65 - 74 years	14	2	16
75 and over	1	1	2
	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>22</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1970

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO.7	0.356	0.056	0.412
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.360	0.123	0.483
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.508	0.109	0.617



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970 FOR THE

LOOE URBAN DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of

the Factories Act 1961

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspectors made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises  (1)	Number On Register  (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions  (3)	Written Notices  (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted  (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	32	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	20	32	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector  (4)	by H.M. Inspector  (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-





Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	2	2	-	-	-

#### PART VIII OF THE ACT

##### Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

No persons are employed in Outwork in the Loce Urban District.

